

Cllr Jackie Jackson – West Teignmouth Ward

Teignmouth Town Council Report for June 2023

I visited Teignmouth Heritage Centre Museum on 25th May and spoke with Malcolm Tipper along with Cllr Chloe Myers, and we discussed how we could promote this valuable resource, through face-book and other social media. The centre offers for a mere £10, to trace your ancestors or investigate some historical aspect in which you are interested, and welcomes interesting historical information about the town from members of the public. It is a veritable mine of interest.

I hire the Meadow Centre, weekly for the Teignmouth Community Larder, and, after a request from the Meadow Centre Trustees, and a meeting with them, with several other councillors, I investigated the possible reasons that the centre had not been given a secure lease, and therefore could not attract grants for maintenance and repair. When I discovered that Cllr Nina Jefferies was the portfolio holder for buildings owned by TDC, I wrote to her on behalf of the Centre, asking if she would investigate, in order for them to, at long last, be granted a secure lease, even if the land might be wanted by TDC long term for some as yet unknown reason. There was a very positive response from Nina, and there has been a meeting of the Trustees with Nina, and Cllr Cate Williams. I await hopefully to hear a positive result.

At both the Surgery I held on Wednesday 7th June at the Meadow Centre, and the Councillor drop in Surgery at The Alice Cross Centre on 24th June, two main issues were brought forward to me by residents, probably because it is summer! The first of these was about weeds and poor condition of pavements. The person concerned was concerned about Lake Avenue, and particularly Soper Walk, where many elderly residents live. Not only were there weeds but the path was in a pretty ropey condition, quite dangerous for the elderly folk living there, who until becoming too infirm had cleared weeds themselves as a community. Weeds and brambles were encroaching across the paths down to the Meadow Centre and beyond to Morrisons, and were making the steep steps difficult to pass. It is difficult to find out who is responsible for these particular areas, so I and three other members of the public cleared them ourselves, but would like to clarify with the clerk, whether the Town Council has, or should have any responsibility for these conditions, or indeed could help to form community groups or provide contractors to clear paths in the many areas which are weedy or rough paved as this is one of many complaints I have received.

The second challenge, was about bus stops and whilst I know bus stops are maintained by a company (Fernbank) which works for the Devon County Council , and uses revenue from adverts to pay for the cleaning and erection of the shelters, and that there was a schedule of (I think 6) bus stops being updated, I was particularly concerned about the very poor condition, glassless and dirty shelter on Bishopsteignton Road, near the bridge. I am relieved to find it IS currently on the schedule from DCC. In addition, there have been many complaints about the

reduction in seating at the bus stop near Smiths in Teignmouth centre, which could perhaps be resolved if it were possible to add another bench.

I attended the Planning Committee on 14th June, and we were able to recommend agreement and approval for this months' requests. However we were particularly pleased to be able to support a building firm to go forward with the renovation and change of use of the old One Stop shop, along Bitton Park Road, which has been an eyesore request for so many years. The request was that it should be turned into small dwellings, for car less occupation, but matching the terraces along the road towards the bridge. How much better this would be than the shoddy entrance to Teignmouth that has faced people over the many previous years since it was a functioning shop. There was one objection which could easily be dealt with by the use of frosted glass in one of the houses. Parking problems would not be added to if the clause about carless owners was adhered to.

I have attended Councillor training and I will, by the time this report is out, have also attended a meeting of the Teignmouth Hospital Stakeholder and will ascertain what has been happening over the last few months with the CCG etc, of which I can give a brief verbal update on FTC 11th July, and fuller cover in my July written report. It has been a huge learning curve during the first weeks of being a councillor, and I have valued the help of colleagues such as Cllr Cate Williams and Mayor Joan Atkins who have guided me, along with the clerk. Thank you.